

Department of Energy

Richland Field Office

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9303018

MAR 26 1993

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Mr. Paul T. Day
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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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Mr. Roger F. Stanley
Hanford Project Manager
State of Washington
Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600

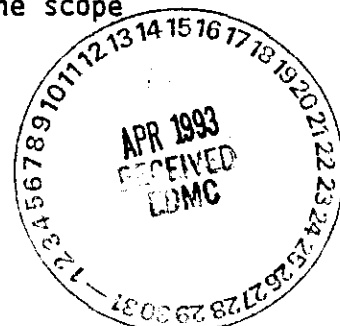
Dear Messrs. Day and Stanley:

ECOLOGICAL CHARACTERIZATION STUDY FOR THE 200 AREAS

This letter formally confirms that a Description of Work (DOW) is an appropriate level of regulatory involvement for an ecological characterization study for the 200 Areas.

The U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Field Office (RL) plans to proceed with an ecological study for the 200 Areas (200 West, East, and North Areas). The objectives are to support Hanford Past Practices Strategy (HPPS [DOE/RL 91-04]) interim action decisions in the 200 Areas. The results of this study then will be used to refine the conceptual model with regard to fauna and flora as affected media and receptors, support the ecological component of qualitative risk assessments (QRAs), and will be included in operable unit (OU) LFI reports. In accordance with HPPS, QRAs need to be conducted to determine whether or not interim actions are warranted.

Over the past six months, RL has had continuing dialogue with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) concerning the need for and the appropriate level of regulatory involvement for this study. This activity was initially identified during the October 1992 Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation, and Liability Act Past Practice Unit Managers' Meeting (UMM) as a planned FY 1993 activity. The general approach and status of the activity was then addressed during a February 4, 1993, meeting with EPA and Ecology Unit Managers which was held to discuss an optimal strategy for implementation of the HPPS in the 200 Areas. Regulatory involvement for approving this activity was briefly discussed. Most recently, a presentation on the scope and objectives of the study was made at the February 1993 UMM, at



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which time, the activity was considered technically appropriate pending regulatory approval/concurrence.

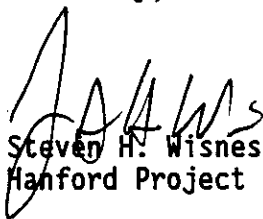
An agreement was made that the appropriate mechanism for approval/concurrence of the study would be through a DOW.

Please note that performing a 200 Area-wide ecological study has several advantages over the individual OUs including improved timing, practicality, and cost effectiveness as the receptor populations have variable ranges that may encompass more than one OU.

A DOW is currently being prepared for the field work associated with the study. The DOW is expected to be ready for transmittal to the regulators in mid-April 1993 for approval/concurrence. A presentation of the contents of the DOW (i.e., specific field activities) is planned for the March 1993 UMM. Field activities are planned to start in June 1993 or July 1993 and be complete by the end of the FY 1993. Results of the study will be presented in a field characterization report.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. P. M. Pak on (509) 376-4798.

Sincerely,


Steven H. Wisness
Hanford Project Manager

ERD:PMP

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Subject: ECOLOGICAL CHARACTERIZATION STUDY FOR THE 200 AREAS

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